

Glossary

303(d) – A section of the Clean Water Act which requires states to report a list of their Water Quality Limited Segments on a regular basis (no set time period but usually called for every two to three years) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

305(b) – A section of the Clean Water Act which requires states to submit a biennial report to EPA describing the quality of all navigable waters in the state and the degree to which they are “fishable” and “swimmable” (the goals of the Clean Water Act).

319(h) – A section of the Clean Water Act which provides grants to state water quality programs for activities directed to water quality improvement.

6217 (g) Guidance – Two documents – *Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Pollution in Coastal Waters*, developed by the EPA, and *Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program: Program Development and Approval Guidance*, developed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and EPA. They were created to provide more detailed direction to state water quality and coastal zone management agencies as they developed their programs under CZARA. The management measures are goal statements, which are to be implemented through the application of best management practices. The guidance documents are not regulations but have been used by the federal agencies as yardsticks against which to measure state §6217 programs when they apply for approval.

Ahupuaa – In ancient Hawaii, the division of land known as an ahupuaa generally ran from the sea to the mountains. “A principle very largely obtaining in these divisions of territory was that a land should run from the sea to the mountains, thus affording to the chief and his people a fishery residence at the warm seaside, together with the products of the high lands, such as fuel, canoe timber, mountain birds, and the right of way to the same, and all the varied products of the intermediate land as might be suitable to the soil and climate of the different altitudes from sea soil to mountainside or top.”¹

Algal blooms – Sudden spurts of algal growth, which can affect water quality adversely and indicate potentially hazardous changes to local water chemistry.

Base section 319(h) funds – Base program funds which may be applied to all watersheds affected by nonpoint source pollution, including UWA Category II and Category III watersheds.

Best management practice (BMP) – A practice or combination of practices that are determined to be the most effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of controlling point and nonpoint pollutants at levels compatible with environmental quality goals.

Category I watersheds – UWA watersheds in need of restoration.

¹ In Re Boundaries of Pulehunui, 4 Haw. 239, 241 (1879)

Category II watersheds – UWA watersheds needing preventive action to sustain water quality.

Category III watersheds – UWA watersheds with pristine/sensitive aquatic conditions on lands administered by Federal, State, or Tribal Governments.

Category IV watersheds – UWA watersheds with insufficient data to make an assessment.

Clean Water Act (CWA) – The commonly used name for the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) as amended by Congress in 1977; Congress initially passed the FWPCA in 1972.

Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP) – Plan released in February 1998 that presented a broad vision of watershed protection in which protections for America’s coastal and estuarine waters, surface freshwater, wetlands, groundwater, and natural resources are integrated with traditional clean water and human health objectives and includes a new, cooperative approach to restoring and protecting water quality.

Coastal waters – Waters adjacent to the shorelines which contain a measurable quantity or percentage of sea water, including, but not limited to, bays, lagoons, ponds, estuaries, etc.

Coastal zone – Lands and waters adjacent to the coast that exert an influence on the uses of the sea and its ecology, or whose uses and ecology are affected by the sea. In Hawai`i, the coastal management area is statutorily defined as “all lands of the State and the area extending seaward from the shoreline to the limit of the State’s police power and management authority, including the United States territorial sea.”

Coral Reef Initiative – Federal initiative to identify and implement projects to protect the health of coral reef ecosystems.

Department – For this plan, term refers to the Department of Health.

Ecosystem – A community of plants and animals (including people) interacting with each other and their physical environment. Ecosystems include places as diverse as urban parks, wetland areas, lakes, and major forests.

Estuary – The part of the river or stream that is affected by tides. The region near a river or stream mouth in which fresh water in the river mixes with the salt water of the sea.

Focus group – An informal advisory group, usually made up of members recruited for their special expertise or interest in a given area; these persons generally serve on a voluntary basis.

Geographic Information System (GIS) – A set of computer program used to store, analyze, and present geographical information, such as topography, ecosystem types, vegetation, land uses, and political and transportation systems, among others. A single map can be displayed on the computer screen with additional maps added as overlays to facilitate comparisons.

Ground water – Subsurface water occupying the zone of saturation. In a strict sense, the term is applied only to water below the water table.

Habitat – The environment that supports plant or animal species. Place where an organism naturally lives or grows.

Hawaii Technical Committee on Nonpoint Source Pollution Control – Committee comprised of representatives from Federal and State agencies conducting nonpoint source-related activities and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, who provide local-level input.

Hydromodification – An alteration of the hydrologic characteristics of coastal and noncoastal waters, which in turn could cause degradation of water resources. In other words, any alteration to a stream or coastal waters, whether a diversion, channel, dam or levee is considered a hydromodification.

Impaired waters – Waters identified by the State as not “fishable” and/or “swimmable.” The two categories of beneficial use come from language in the Clean Water Act.

Incremental section 319(h) funds – Funds provided to the State specifically to implement Watershed Restoration Action Strategies under the CWA. The Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging states to utilize this new funding to support restoration activities in selected Category I watersheds.

Management measure – An economically achievable measure for the control of the addition of pollutants from existing and new categories and classes of nonpoint sources of pollution, which reflects the greatest degree of pollutant reduction achievable through the application of the best available nonpoint pollution control practices, technologies, processes, siting criteria, operating methods, or other alternatives.

Nonpoint source pollution – Water pollution that comes from many diffuse sources rather than from a specific point, such as an outfall pipe, and is often the result of human activities. Also called polluted runoff.

Nutrients – Elements, or compounds, essential as raw materials for organism growth and development, such as carbon, nitrogen, calcium, oxygen, phosphorous, sulfur, and magnesium.

Pathogens – Microorganisms (e.g., bacteria, viruses, or parasites) that can cause disease in humans, animals or plants.

Point source pollution – Pollution from any discernible, confined, or discrete conveyance from which pollutants are or may be discharged, including, (but not limited to) pipes, ditches, channels, tunnels, conduits, wells, containers, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operations, or vessels.

Polluted runoff – Term has same meaning as nonpoint source pollution and has become the favored term in recent years.

Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) – A system of procedures, checks, audits, and corrective actions to ensure that all research design and performance, environmental monitoring and sampling, and other technical and reporting activities are of the highest achievable quality.

Riparian area – Vegetated ecosystems along a waterbody through which energy, materials, and water pass. Riparian areas characteristically have a high water table; they are subject to periodic flooding and influence from the adjacent waterbody. These systems encompass wetlands, uplands, or some combination of these two landforms; they will not have, in all cases, all of the characteristics necessary for them to be classified as wetlands.

Runoff – That part of precipitation or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface water. It can carry pollutants from the air and land into the receiving waters.

Sediment – Sediment is the result of erosion. It is the solid material, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, or gravity.

Stakeholder – Any organization, governmental entity, or individual that has a stake in or may be impacted by a given approach to environmental regulation, pollution prevention, energy conservation, etc.

State waters – Includes all waters, fresh, brackish, or salt, around and within the State including, but not limited to, coastal waters, wetlands, streams, rivers, drainage ditches, ponds, reservoirs, canals, groundwaters, and lakes; provided that drainage ditches, canals, ponds, wetlands, and reservoirs required as a part of a water pollution control system or an irrigation system are excluded.

Stream – Any natural water course in which water usually flows in a defined bed or channel, whether or not the flow is constant, uniform, or uninterrupted, and regardless of whether the stream has been altered or channelized. In distinguishing between a stream and other water features such as gullies, the most significant feature of a stream is the existence of a streambed that has graded or sorted deposits consisting primarily of sand, gravel, and boulders.

Surface water – All water whose surface is exposed to the atmosphere; includes ground-level water bodies such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, bays, and oceans.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) – This program, established by Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, provides for the protection of waters in areas where pollution control is not stringent enough to achieve water quality standards. The program authorizes states to assess water quality and to allocate the total maximum allowable daily load(s) of pollutant discharges to those waters, regardless of the source of the pollutant.

Unified watershed assessment – A cooperative approach to watershed protection and a key element in the Clean Water Action Plan in which state, tribal, federal and local governments, and the public first identify the watersheds with the most critical water quality problems and then work together to focus resources and implement effective strategies to solve the problem.

Water Quality Limited Segments – Waterbodies in the state which cannot reasonably be expected to attain or maintain State Water Quality Standards without additional action to control nonpoint sources of pollution.

Water quality – A term that reflects the condition of water that has been affected by natural processes and human activities; good water quality may mean that it meets its designated uses, i.e., it is fishable and swimmable.

Water quality standards – State-adopted and EPA-approved ambient standards for water bodies. The standards prescribe the use of the water body and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect designated uses.

Watershed – A drainage area or basin in which all land and water areas drain or flow toward a central collector such as a stream, river, lake, or ocean at a lower elevation.

Watershed approach – A coordinated framework for environmental management that focuses public and private efforts on the highest priority problems within hydrologically-defined geographic areas taking into consideration both ground and surface water flow.

Watershed region – A categorization of a number of watersheds that drain into one WQLS as identified in Hawaii's Unified Watershed Assessment

Watershed restoration action strategies (WRASSs) – Strategies that the States have developed for restoration efforts for their watersheds that currently do not meet their water quality goals.

Wetlands – Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands help control floods, filter pollutants, and serve as spawning and nursery areas for fish.

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